JAN. 18-20 2001

Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Executive Notes

Your Provincial Executive Council met on February 8 in St. JohnÕs and Joint Council (Branch Presidents and Executive) met on February 9. This issue of Executive Notes is designed to provide you with a summary of major decisions occurring at these meetings. For further information please contact any member of Provincial Executive or the staff person as indicated.

Collective Bargaining
Executive devoted a great deal of time to reviewing all articles of the opening proposals for the current round of collective bargaining. Detailed presentations and discussion took place during an information session which included a report from the negotiating team, a review of the collective bargaining process, a review of information for branch presentations and a discussion session on "negotiations in context". Copies of the opening proposals, which include proposals from the employer, are being sent to all schools. Branch meetings will be held to discuss the opening proposals. Further information in the form of "Bargaining Briefs" will be sent to teachers in the coming weeks.

For further information contact Fred Andrews, President, Winston Carter, Vice-President, or Edward Hancock, Assistant Executive Director.

Association Priorities
An updated copy of NLTA priorities for 2000-01 was again provided to Provincial Executive, including an action update on all items. As indicated above, a detailed discussion took place on negotiations. Concluding a collective agreement has been identified as the number one priority for this year. Other priorities include: quality of work life; classroom issues --workload; membership involvement/ identification with NLTA; and communications: internal/external relations --building partnerships.

For further information contact any member of Provincial Executive or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

Business from Standing Committees
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
A policy on Enriched Learning Experiences was accepted and will be incorporated into NLTA policy. For further information contact Ken Kavanagh, Chair, Curriculum Committee or René Wicks, Professional Development Division.

OTHER BUSINESS

•Executive discussed the issue of violent criminal offenders in the school system and concerns raised by teachers. It was also noted that detailed positions on this issue are contained within the opening proposals for contract negotiations. For further information contact Fred Andrews, President.

•The theme for the Biennial General Meeting to be held April 18, 19, 20 will be "Education is Life Itself". This is part of a larger quote from John Dewey. The rest of the quote will be incorporated throughout the convention materials. For further information contact Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

•The proposed by-law changes from Seagaulher Branch were approved by Executive. For further information contact Geralyn Costello, Assistant to the President.

Proposed Policy and By-law Changes

Executive reviewed motions and notice of motion for by-law changes to be dealt with at the upcoming Convention. Sixteen proposed changes to the NLTA Act and by-laws met the voting requirements for the 2001 BGM. Five of these proposals result from resolutions submitted by branches to the 1999 BGM which did not satisfy the required notice of three months for by-law changes in order to be voted on at that meeting.

For further information on policy and by-law changes contact Geralyn Costello, Assistant to the President.

Task Force on Workers' Compensation System

The provincial government recently appointed a Task Force to review current financial circumstances associated with the Workers' Compensation system in Newfoundland and Labrador. The NLTA was invited to make a submission to the Task Force as well as participate in a Round Table discussion. On January 18, a brief from the NLTA was presented to the Task Force. Follow-up discussions are scheduled for January 25.

For information concerning the content of the NLTA submission contact Perry Downey, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

Workload Study

A committee is in the process of being appointed to pursue the carrying out of the workload study under Schedule P --Workload of the current collective agreement. Representatives on the committee will be from the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association, the Department of Education, and the NLTA. The NLTA will be represented on the Workload Study Committee by Lloyd Hobbs.

For further information contact Fred Andrews, President or Lloyd Hobbs, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

Pension Administration Issues

Provincial Executive received an update on two issues arising out of

discussions in the Pensions Administration Committee. The first of these concerned progress on a possible Interprovincial Reciprocal Transfer Agreement. At the present time a draft agreement is under consideration by pension plan administrators in all provinces. However, our provincial government has indicated it is unwilling to participate at the present time due to the current unfunded liability in the T.P.P. and the negative funding implications should there be a large number of requests for transfer of pension credits out of Newfoundland and Labrador. The CPP Integration Formula was also discussed by Executive with detailed information and an update being provided for their perusal. Since Executive wished to have further time to review the detailed information on both topics, further discussion was tabled until the February Executive meeting.

For further information contact Edward Hancock, Assistant Executive Director.

Ministerial Panel Recommendations 58-64
At the time that the Executive developed its positions on the recommendations emanating from the Ministerial Panel, they reserved final position on Recommendations 58-64 (Distance Education) in order to undertake consultation with a number of distance educators throughout the province. Executive has now taken the following positions on these recommendations:

- Recommendation 58 -- Agree in Principle
- Recommendation 59 -- Disagree
- Recommendation 60 -- Disagree
- Recommendation 61 -- Disagree
- Recommendation 62 -- Agree in Principle
- Recommendation 63 -- Disagree
- Recommendation 64 -- Agree in Principle

Click on the following link to view a complete copy of NLTA recommendations re:"Supporting Learning: The Report of the Ministerial Panel on Educational Delivery in the Classroom".

For further information contact Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director or René Wicks, Professional Development Division.

Virtual Teacher Centre
The Virtual Teacher Centre, a province-wide, on-line professional development resource, has received funding approval and operations should commence in the next few months. Advertisements for the position of coordinator of the centre have been placed in local newspapers as well as sent to schools.

For further information contact Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director or René Wicks, Professional Development Division.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for February 8 and, if

necessary. February 10. Joint Council will meet on February 9-10. For further information contact Fred Andrews, President or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

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